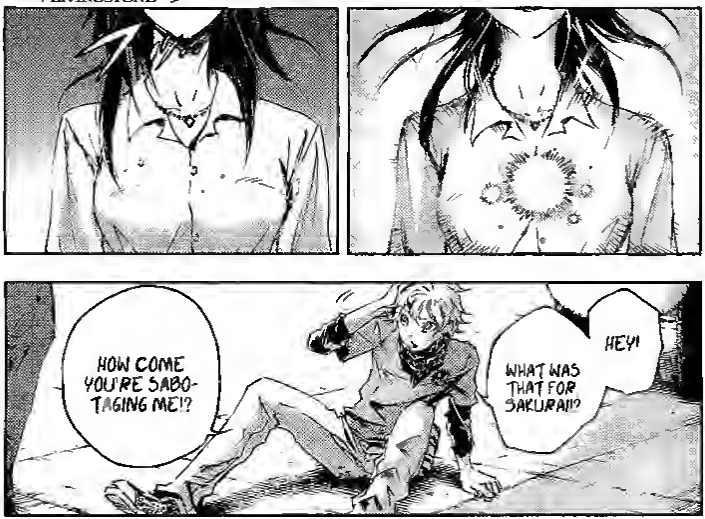
THE SOUL IS PARTING FROM THE FLESH! SHE HAS ABANDONED HER LIFE
THE SOUL...! THIS PERSON REALLY WAS TRYING TO DIE...!!
H-HOLD ON A SEC!

CHAPTER 4: FLOWCHART

AUTHOR 前川知大 (MAEKAWA Tomohiro)
ARTIST 片岡人生 (KATAOKA Jinsei)

THE STORY:

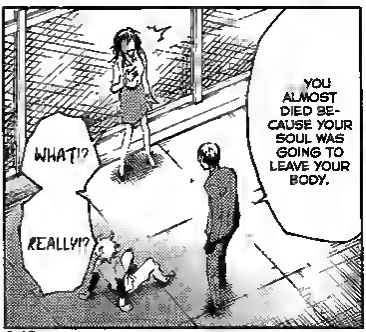
90% OF A PERSON'S DESTINY IS DETERMINED BY THE SOUL. SOULS THAT FULFILL THEIR DESTINY IN THIS WORLD ARE PASSED ON TO THE NEXT, WHERE THEY CONTINUE THEIR DEVELOPMENT. HOWEVER, SOME SOULS DIE UNEXPECTEDLY, AND FAIL TO FULFILL THEIR DESTINIES. SAKURAI AND AMANO HAVE THE JOB OF MANAGING THE SOULS, AND PREVENTING THIS FROM OCCURRING. WHENEVER A SOUL IS IN DANGER OF BEING DESTROYED, THEY WILL APPEAR.


HEY!
WHAT WAS THAT FOR SAKURAI!?
HOW COME YOU'RE SABOTAGING ME!?

3

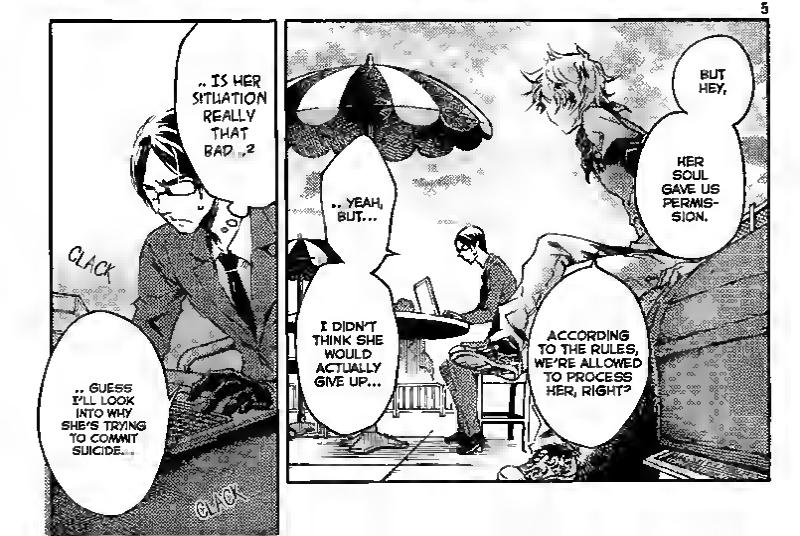
HUFF
HUFF
.....?
WHAT JUST HAPPENED.. ?

I WAS SO SURE IT WAS JUST A FLEETING DECISION...
IS A SOUL THIS IMPORTANT REALLY GOING TO DESTROY ITSELF...!?


YOU ALMOST DIED BECAUSE YOUR SOUL WAS GOING TO LEAVE YOUR BODY.
WHAT!?
REALLY!?

YOU DON'T NEED TO DIE!
DON'T JUST THROW AWAY YOUR LIFE LIKE THIS!
WHY!?
WHY DID YOUR SOUL GIVE PERMISSION!? YOU HAVE 41 MORE YEARS OF LIFE AHEAD OF YOU!
.....?
NOW YOU'RE TRYING TO PERSUADE ME...?
YOU TWO ARE THE ONES WHO OFFERED TO KILL ME.
4
AHHH!
WHICH ONE!?
HUH?
YOU SHOULD DIE
KEEP LIVING!

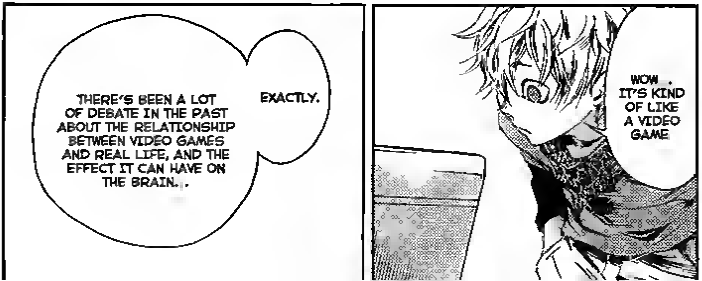
WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA ALL OF A SUDDEN?
WRONG TACTIC, ALRIGHT!
TAKE A LOOK AT THIS DATA.
IF HER SOUL CONTINUES TO DEVELOP ACCORDING TO PLAN,
SHE'S GONNA CHANGE HISTORY. LOOK.
WHOA, WHAT THE HECK? IS THAT FOR REAL?
.....
MAYBE I SHOULD GET AN AUTOGRAPH OR SOME-THING...


BUT HEY,
HER SOUL GAVE US PERMIS-SION.
.. YEAH, BUT...
I DIDN'T THINK SHE WOULD ACTUALLY GIVE UP...
ACCORDING TO THE RULES, WE'RE ALLOWED TO PROCESS HER, RIGHT?
.. IS HER SITUATION REALLY THAT BAD .?
CLACK
.. GUESS I'LL LOOK INTO WHY SHE'S TRYING TO COMMIT SUICIDE...
CLACK

CLACK
CLACK
MEGUMI KANZAKI AGE 28.
ACCOUNTANT FOR A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION CALLED THE ROEI FOUNDATION.
CURRENT ADDRESS ...
OH, I SEE. SO THE BUILDING ACROSS THE STREET IS COMPANY HOUSING
.....!
WHA... HOW'D YOU GET MY NAME...!?
ARE YOU THE POLICE!?
NO...
JUST SUICIDE WATCHERS WHO HAPPENED TO PASS BY.

WELL...
YOU GUYS ARE SKETCHY.
.....
BUT IT SEEMS LIKE YOU REALLY DO HAVE SUPERNATURAL POWERS OF SOME SORT...
HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT ME?
THANK YOU FOR BELIEVING US.
MAKES THE JOB EASIER.
THIS IS A WEBSITE CALLED THE "CENTRAL LIBRARY," WHICH CAN ONLY BE ACCESSED BY US. IT'S AN ARCHIVE OF PERSONAL HISTORIES.
WHAT YOUR CHOICES WERE,
AND WHAT YOU CHOSE.
LIFE IS AN ACCUMULATION OF CHOICES, AFTER ALL.

CLICK
CLICK
YES
OF LIFE.
CHOICES?
AM 7:58
WAKE UP
AM 8:22
TURN ON THE TV
GO TO SLEEP AGAIN
MAKE COFFEE
EAT FAST FOOD FOR BRE
FIND SOMETHING FROM THE FRIDGE
YOU WERE DEBATING WHETHER TO GO TO THE NEARBY FAST FOOD STORE FOR BREAKFAST, OR USE THE LEFTOVERS FROM THE REFRIGERATOR.
QUITE EARLY FOR A SUNDAY.
LIKE TODAY. . AT 8.22AM.


EXACTLY.
THERE'S BEEN A LOT OF DEBATE IN THE PAST ABOUT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN VIDEO GAMES AND REAL LIFE, AND THE EFFECT IT CAN HAVE ON THE BRAIN. .
WOW . IT'S KIND OF LIKE A VIDEO GAME

?
I GET IT
OHH...
BUT THEY'RE ACTUALLY VERY SIMILAR, AS LONG AS YOU DON'T CONSIDER WHAT'S AT STAKE.
LIFE ALSO COMES IN STAGES, AND THERE'S IMPORTANT ITEMS THAT YOU NEED TO FIND
CHOICES ARE MADE LEVELS ARE COMPLETED...
M...MAYBE THAT'S WHY HE GAVE UP ON THE VIDEO GAME
AMANO DOESN'T HAVE SOUL, SO HE H...S NO MOTIVATION TO COMPLETE LIFE
YOU MUST'VE HAD A HARD TIME MAKING UP YOUR MIND.
THERE'S A LOT OF CHOICES LISTED HERE.
.....!
AM10:04
PHONE CALL FROM ICHIRO SAKUMA
HUH?
YOU RECEIVED A PHONE CALL FROM MR. ICHIRO SAKUMA AT 10:04 AM...

?
I GET IT
OHH...
BUT THEY'RE ACTUALLY VERY SIMILAR, AS LONG AS YOU DON'T CONSIDER WHAT'S AT STAKE.
LIFE ALSO COMES IN STAGES, AND THERE'S IMPORTANT ITEMS THAT YOU NEED TO FIND
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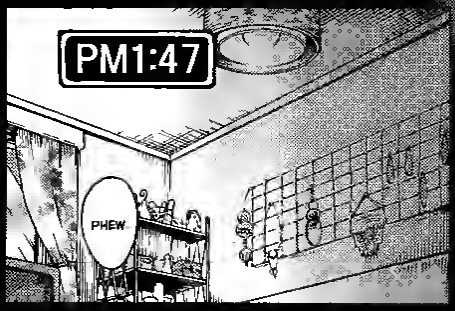
YOU MUST'VE HAD A HARD TIME MAKING UP YOUR MIND.
THERE'S A LOT OF CHOICES LISTED HERE.
.....!
AM10:04
PHONE CALL FROM ICHIRO SAKUMA
HUH?
YOU RECEIVED A PHONE CALL FROM MR. ICHIRO SAKUMA AT 10:04 AM...

—SO FAR,
I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS ABOUT THIS.
……
SOB...
SHIT.. UHH. GUESS I SHOULD JUST...

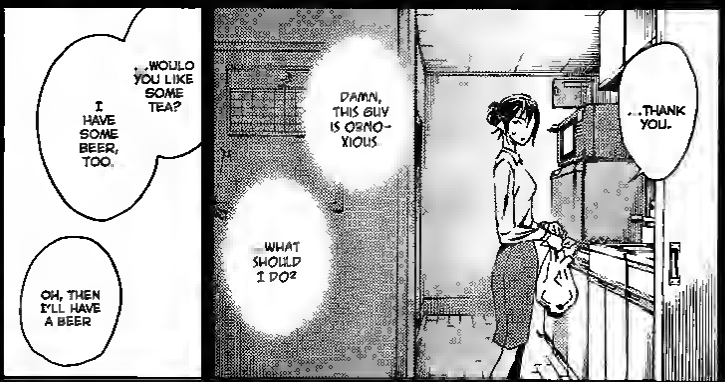
OH, UMM... MS. KANZAKI?
"SOB"
"SOB"
"SOB"
KANZAKI'S CHOICE
TRY CRYING
LEAVE ME ALONE!
WHOA, FAKE CRYING. THAT'S HORRIBLE.
PM1:40
IT'S CLOSE BY, ISN'T IT?
OH. THIS MAY NOT BE THE BEST PLACE TO TALK ABOUT THIS WHY DON'T WE GO TO YOUR HOUSE, MS KANZAKI
SOB
CREAK
I'LL BE RIGHT BACK
UMM... I SHOULD CLEAN UP A BIT

CRACK
PLEASE.
TAKE YOUR TIME
.....?
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
THERE HASN'T BEEN ANYTHING DECISIVE SO FAR.


PM1:47
PHEW

GUESS WE SHOULD JUST KEEP GOING.
Enter
CLICK

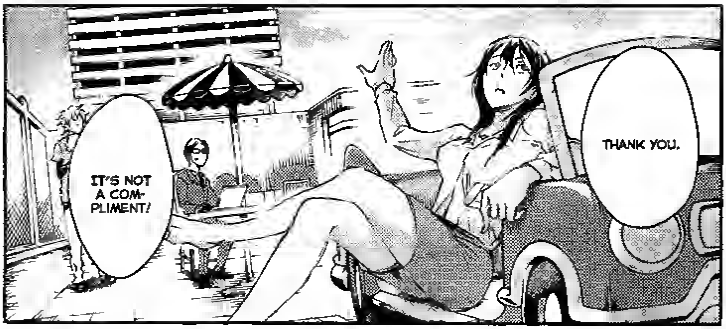
I'M SURPRISED YOU LIVE IN SUCH A CUTE ROOM.


...THANK YOU.
DAMN, THIS GUY IS OBNOXIOUS
...WHAT SHOULD I DO?
...WOULD YOU LIKE SOME TEA?
I HAVE SOME BEER, TOO.
OH, THEN I'LL HAVE A BEER

FROM THE UNION FEES AND THE RENTAL COSTS FOR RELATED FACILITIES...
OVER A PERIOD OF 4 YEARS.
—BUT THIS WAS QUITE A SURPRISE.
A GRAND TOTAL OF 82 MILLION YEN EMBEZZLED.
REALLY, VERY IM-PRESSIVE.

PM1:50
EMBEZZLED 82 MILLION YEN

...VERY IMPRESSIVE.


THANK YOU.
IT'S NOT A COMPLIMENT!

..BUT STILL,
THAT'S NOTHING TO DIE OVER, IS IT?
YOU COULD PAY IT BACK LITTLE BY LITTLE, AND
HAH.
I WOULDN'T HAVE DONE IT IN THE FIRST PLACE IF I HAD THAT KIND OF PATIENCE.
RIGHT...
I... DON'T THINK I CAN GET ALONG WITH THIS PERSON...
SHE'S GOT SUCH AN IMPORTANT SOUL THOUGH...
..BESIDES,
THAT WASN'T ALL

PM1:59
—DOES IT SAY WHAT HAPPENED AFTER THAT?
SAF
PM2:21
ZZT...
...WONDER IF IT'S GONNA WORK.

GLUB
KANZAKI'S CHOICE
▷ SPIKE THE BEER WITH SLEEPING PILLS
I MEAN ..
IT'S NOT LIKE WE HAVE TO BRING IN THE COMPANY OR THE POLICE RIGHT NOW.
CLACK
PHEW.
QUITE REFRESHING, THIS EARLY IN THE DAY.
IT WAS KIND OF A SHOCK...
CREAK
YOU KNOW .. YOU'RE KINDA MY TYPE, MS. KANZAKI.

...WE COULD RUN AWAY TOGETHER.
DO YOU STILL HAVE THE MONEY?
JUST AN IDEA.
WELL, GUESS I DON'T HAVE A CHOICE
OH MAN...
OH, SORRY
DUMB -ASS..
PLICK
PLICK
WONDER IF HE'S WILLING TO TAKE THE BLAME WITH ME IF I DO H...
AM I DRUNK?
SHIT.
GOTS.
wobble
HUH?

HUFF
HAH
DRIP
DRIP
HUFF
HUFF
HEH-HEH...
WHUP
HUFF...
HAH
HEH

I-I'M
REALLY
NOT GONNA TELL ANYONE
OR ANY-THING
CLICK
CLICK
SO..

SORRY, NO WAY.
ZZZ
.....?
CAN'T DO IT LOOK...
GIMME A BREAK. RUN AWAY? WITH YOU?
HEY.

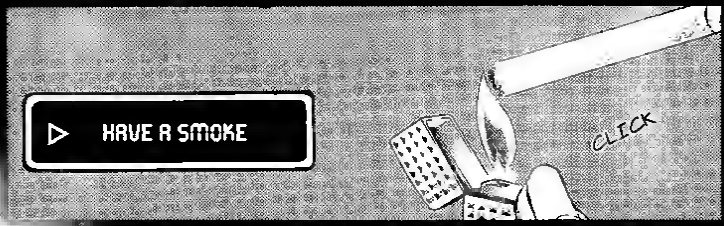
▷ KANZAKI'S CHOICES

CALL AN AMBULANCE

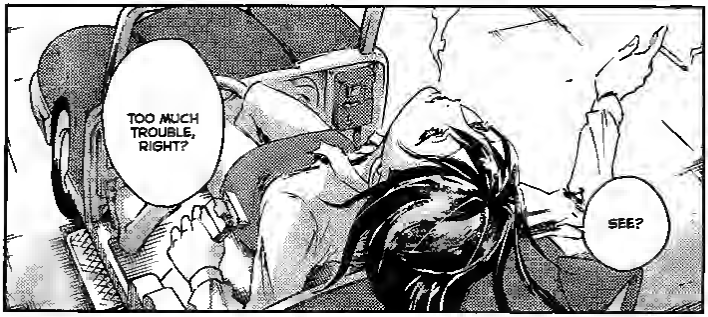
TAKE A SHOWER

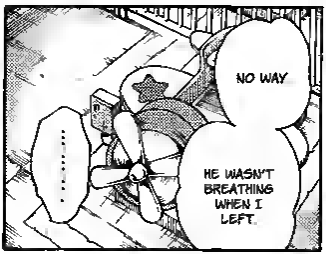
FINISH HIM OFF

HAVE A SMOKE



WHAT WERE YOU THINKING!?
WHA!?


TOO MUCH TROUBLE, RIGHT?
SEE?


NO WAY
HE WASN'T BREATHING WHEN I LEFT.
.....

SO THAT WAS. . 2 HOURS AGO, HUH.
...MAYBE HE'S STILL...

24

YEAH, THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO WHEN YOU'RE STUCK.
THAT'S LIFE.

HEY.
PIP
YEP, YOU GOTTA KNOW WHEN TO QUIT.

..HOW DO THEY GIVE UP SO EASILY...!?
Dang
YOU'RE A MINOR

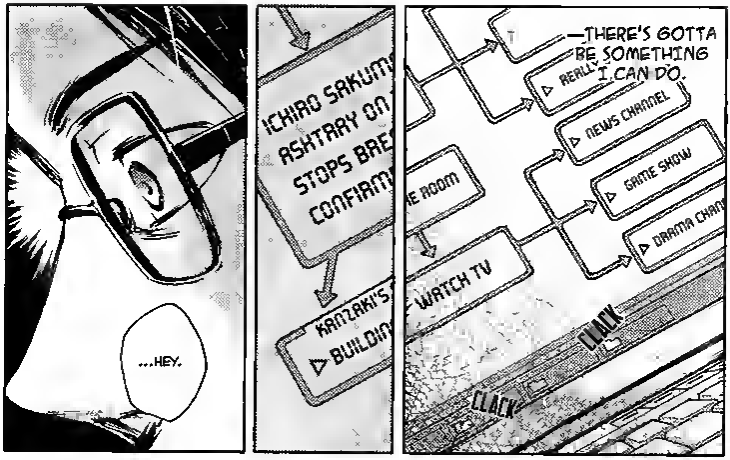
MS KANZAKI, YOUR "PLAN" ...
YOUR POWERFUL, SIGNIFICANT SOUL... DOESN'T WANT TO DIE.
THERE'S PROBABLY SOMETHING THAT YOU STILL NEED TO ACCOMPLISH IN THIS LIFETIME.

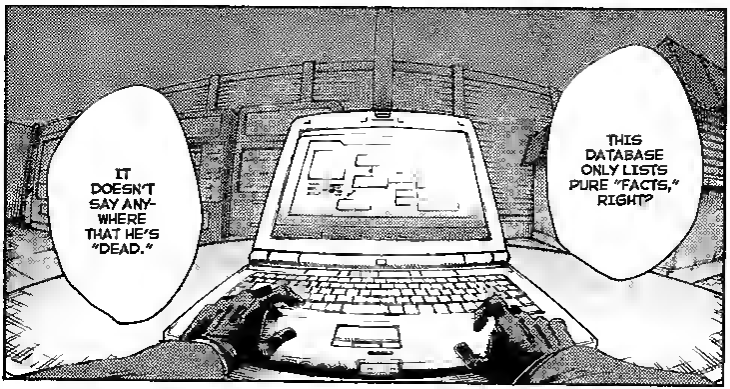
AND NOW I'VE KILLED SOMEONE.
WHAT ELSE DO YOU EXPECT ME TO DO?
THIS ISN'T MY FIRST TIME EMBEZZLING, AND I'VE GOT TONS OF LOANS AND STUFF I HAVE TO PAY BACK.
YOU'RE OVERESTIMATING ME.

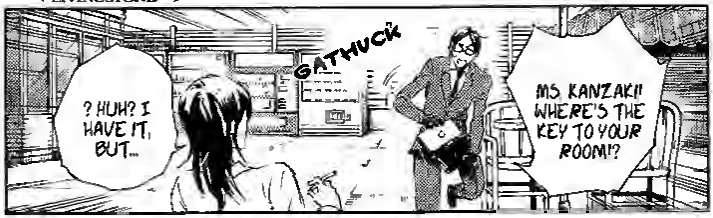
...WHAT IS WRONG WITH THIS PERSON!?
SHE'S BOTHERED SO MANY PEOPLE, AND SHE STILL HAS THE AUDACITY TO TALK LIKE THIS...!?

IT'S JUST TOO MUCH TROUBLE.

WELL YEAH...
BUT WE'RE SUPPOSED TO PRIORITIZE THE NEXT WORLD OVER THIS ONE, RIGHT?
LOOK, SAKURAI.
I GET THAT THIS PERSON'S SOUL IS RARE AND EVERYTHING,
27
THEN WHY NOT? IT'S TOO MUCH TROUBLE.
LET'S HURRY UP AND KILL HER.
YOU TOO, AMANO. YOU'RE ALWAYS SUCH A...
, BUT A FORCED RETIREMENT SLOWS THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SOUL...
I WANT TO SAVE HER.


...HEY.
ICHIRO SAKUM
ASHTRAY ON
STOPS BRE
CONFIRM!
KANZAKI'S
BUILDIN
E ROOM
WATCH TV
—THERE'S GOTTA
BE SOMETHING
REALLY I CAN DO.
NEWS CHANNEL
GAME SHOW
DRAMA CHAN
CLACK
CLACK


IT
DOESN'T
SAY ANY-
WHERE
THAT HE'S
"DEAD."
THIS
DATABASE
ONLY LISTS
PURE "FACTS,"
RIGHT?


GATHUCK
MS. KANZAKI! WHERE'S THE KEY TO YOUR ROOM!?
? HUH? I HAVE IT, BUT...

COME WITH ME!
LET'S HURRY, AMANO!
YEAH YEAH.

29
YOU HIT ICHIRO SAKUMA ON THE BACK OF THE HEAD WITH AN ASHTRAY...
CLONK
CLONK
CLONK
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
HUH?
WHAT?

CHAPTER 4 / END
TO BE CONTINUED IN THE NEXT ISSUE

DBR SCANS
TRANSLATOR
MERIKEN
CLEANER
DORAGON
TYPESETTER
DORAGON
SCANNER
HADORA
#DBR-SCANS@IRC.IRCHIGHWAY.NET